

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said period of time 23 wherein a total retry time for all successive attempts to establish said LSP~~ does not exceed a maximum time value.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~23~~, wherein said ~~connection path LSP~~ is a soft permanent ~~label-switched path: LSP~~.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~26~~, wherein said ~~fixed time value is ten seconds: T is ten seconds~~.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6 ~~28~~ wherein said ~~selecting one record from said list step ii)~~ comprises:
having a time field in said list of records;
on each said regular interval of time for each entry in said list of records:
providing each record in said list of records with a time field holding a respective time value;
decrementing a said time value for each record in said list of records at regular intervals of time; and

selecting said LSP when the time value in said time field ~~is and~~ for said first record attains zero.

—— if said time value for an entry is zero, then selecting said entry as said one record.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8 3, wherein said maximum time value is sixty seconds.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a label switched path (LSP) over ~~an a~~ MPLS routing domain established within an IP over ATM network, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a LSP setup request for connecting an ingress node in said MPLS routing domain with an egress node;
- (b) defining a unique LSP ID for said LSP and establishing a signaling signalling link between said ingress and egress node, by creating a label distribution protocol (LDP) session at said ingress node, egress node and each hop along said LSP;
- (c) associating all said LDP sessions to said LSP; and
- (d) establishing said LSP for transmitting traffic along said LSP between said ingress and egress ~~node~~ nodes by

providing at said ingress node a retry timer tracking an interval of time based on a back off mechanism for enabling successive attempts to establish said LSP at increasing retry intervals;
selecting one record from a list of record relating to a plurality of requests for connections;
attempting to establish a connection relating to said one record, said connection being related to said LSP; and
if said connection relating to said one record is established, then marking said one record as being successfully connected, otherwise re-attempting

to establish said connection at said increasing time intervals, each of said successive increasing time interval being greater than a last interval by said regular interval of time.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said retry timer provides an initial retry interval of T seconds, and each next successive retry interval is longer than a previous period of time by T seconds.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sum of the increasing retry intervals does not exceed a maximum time value.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein said LSP is a signaling LSP.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein T is 10 seconds.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~17~~, 12, wherein:
each record of said list of records includes a respective time field; and
said selecting one record from said list comprises, at each said increasing retry interval
and for said each record in said list of records:
decrementing a time value stored in said each respective time field; and
if the time value for any said each respective time field is zero, then selecting the
record associated with the any said each respective time field as said one record.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said re-attempting to establish said connection occurs only if the sum of the increasing retry intervals does not exceed a maximum time value.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said maximum time value is sixty seconds.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said step (b) comprises: establishing at least another signaling link between said ingress and egress node, and selecting one of said signaling link and said another signaling link utilizing a round robin algorithm.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising not selecting any of said signaling links whenever said network does not have sufficient resources for establishing one of said signaling links.

Claim 23. (New) A method of setting a timing interval between attempts to establish a label switched path (LSP) between an ingress node and an egress node of a communication network comprising:

- a) defining a unique identification (LSP ID) for said LSP and establishing a signalling link between said ingress and egress nodes;
- b) at said ingress node, monitoring said signalling link to detect a message indicating that said LSP has been established;
- c) initiating from said ingress node a new attempt to establish said LSP after a retry time interval from a previous attempt, if said ingress node did not receive said message indicating that said LSP has been established from said signalling link; and
- d) repeating step c) after a different retry time interval, said different retry time interval being greater than said retry time interval.

Claim 24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said different retry time interval is greater than said retry time interval by a fixed time value.

Claim 25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said step c) comprises providing at said ingress node a retry timer based on a linear back-off mechanism for enabling successive attempts to establish said LSP at increasing retry time intervals.

Claim 26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said retry timer provides T seconds between said new attempt and said previous attempt, and each next successive retry time interval is longer than the previous retry time interval by T seconds.

Claim 27. (New) A method establishing a label switched paths (LSPs) across a communication network, comprising:

- i) maintaining at a first node of said communication network a list of records including all said LSPs to be established from said first node;
- ii) selecting from said list of records a first record for a particular LSP of said LSPs to be established, and establishing a first signalling link between said first node and an egress node for said particular LSP;
- iii) monitoring at said first node for messages indicating that said particular LSP has been established; and
- iv) if said particular LSP has been established, marking said first record as being successful.

Claim 28. (New) The method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:

- v) initiating from said first node a new attempt to establish said particular LSP after a retry time interval from a previous attempt, if said ingress node did not receive said message indicating that said particular LSP has been established from said first signalling link; and
- vi) repeating step v) after a different retry time interval having an interval that than said retry time interval.

Claim 29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein step v) comprises establishing at least a second signalling link between said ingress and egress node and selecting one of said first and said second signalling links utilizing a round-robin algorithm.

Claim 30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising not selecting any of said first and second signalling links whenever said network does not have sufficient resources for establishing signalling links.

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